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Christine Spare

Name of Person Mailing Paper or Fee

Christine Spare

Signature

November 10, 2003

Date of Signature

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In the Application of ) Examiner: M. Chambers  
Takashi Ejiri )  
Title: AN APPARATUS FOR VISUALLY )  
CHECKING THE OPERATION STATUS) )  
OF A STOP VALVE, AND A MANUAL )  
OPENING APPARATUS FOR A )  
NORMALLY-CLOSED VALVE )  
Serial No.: 09/815,735 ) (Our Docket No.: 4415-15)  
Filed on: March 23, 2001 )

**Hartford, Connecticut, November 10, 2003**

Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

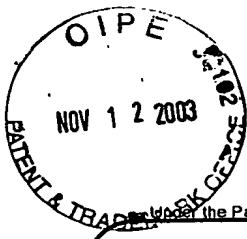
**RESPONSE ACCOMPANYING**  
**A REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION**

Dear SIR:

The following is a Response to the final Office Action dated August 8, 2003 in the above-identified patent application. The Applicant provides remarks directed towards the Examiner's rejection on the accompanying sheets.

The Applicant has simultaneously filed a Request for Continued Examination in order to remove the "final" status from the present Application.

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PTO/SB/30 (08-03)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1996, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Request

For

Continued Examination (RCE)  
Transmittal

Address to:  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number

09/815,735

Filing Date

March 23, 2001

First Named Inventor

Takashi Ejiri

Art Unit

3753

Examiner Name

M. Chambers

Attorney Docket Number

4415-15

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application. Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

- a.  Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

- i.  Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Rely Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_  
ii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

- b.  Enclosed

- i.  Amendment/Reply      iii.  Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)  
ii.  Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)      iv.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Miscellaneous**

Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a

- a.  period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)  
b.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees**

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to

- a.  Deposit Account No. 13-0235

- i.  RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)  
ii.  Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)  
iii.  Other \_\_\_\_\_

- b.  Check in the amount of \$ 770.00 enclosed

- c.  Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.**

**SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Name (Print/Type)	Timothy A. Johnson	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	51,234
Signature		Date	November 10, 2003

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

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Name (Print/Type)

Christine Spare

Signature

Date

November 10, 2003

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

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